

# Fort Larned Overview

Directions: Read the Fort Larned Read Kansas card and answer the following questions by circling the letter of the best answer

1. The need to establish Fort Larned came about due to what event?
  - (a) The building of the Transcontinental Railroad
  - (b) Indian resistance to mail wagons using the Santa Fe Trail
  - (c) Increased wagon traffic on the Santa Fe Trail
  - (d) The passage of the Indian Removal Act
  
2. What was the original purpose of Fort Larned?
  - (a) It was built as fort to fight Indians
  - (b) It was built as a mail station
  - (c) It was built as a stage coach stop
  - (d) It was built as a railroad depot
  
3. Which of the following is incorrect about Fort Larned's role as the site of an Indian Agency?
  - (a) The Indians were promised payment for their lands
  - (b) The Indian agent made sure tribes received their payments
  - (c) The agent protected the trade rights of Indians
  - (d) All Indians agreed to give up their lands

4. Which one of the following is incorrect about life at Fort Larned?

- (a) It was isolated
- (b) There were frequent fights with the Indians
- (c) The discipline was harsh
- (d) Most men worked hard but had free time also

5. What brought about the closing of Fort Larned?

- (a) The stage coaches that carried the mail were replaced by the railroad
- (b) The Indian Agency housed there was moved along with many Indians to Oklahoma
- (c) They closed the fort to build an historic site

# The Economics of Living at Fort Larned

## Role Play Activity

Directions: After choosing a person to role play from the list of real Fort Larned people on pgs. 52 - 53, use the information on pages 47, 49 and 59 to complete the following questions.

1. Describe the person you are role playing including his/her name, age, race, gender and job.

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2. Based on the information given on pgs. 49 and 59, what would be your character's monthly salary? \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to the text, if you are a soldier, the following expenses would be deducted from your monthly pay:

Savings

\$1.00 - Soldier's Home contribution

.13 - (rounded up) retirement fund

.25 - company fund

.25 - hair cut

.25 - laundress fee

\$2.00 - typical sutler's store bill

\$2.87

Soldiers need to subtract these expenses from their monthly pay to determine their take home pay. If you are a housewife, your husband's pay is your pay. If you are a married laundress, combine your income with that of your husband's for your monthly pay.

Determine your character's monthly pay. \_\_\_\_\_

Looking at the list of sutler's store goods and prices on page 47, answer the following questions:

4. Based on the character you are role-playing, list 4 items he or she would most likely use or want on a regular basis and add up the cost of buying one of each item. Do not spend more than you make in a month.

Cost of all the items from the sutler's store: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is an item that your character might want but probably could do without (opportunity cost) if money was lacking. Explain your choice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is an item that would be a severe hardship for your character to do without and that you would be willing to sacrifice other items in order to get it. Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Many soldiers had habits such as drinking, smoking and gambling that at the time were referred to as "vices". Looking at the list of sutler's store items, explain the following statement: "Soldiers who had few or no vices probably had more money in their pocket."

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Referring to the information given on pages 52 and 53, explain the following statement: Families like Patrick, Mary and Millie Bradley probably really struggled to make ends meet every month compared to most others.”

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9. Referring to the information on page 59, explain the following statement: “There were positive incentives for a soldier to rise to the rank of an officer.”

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# A Woman's Place at Fort Larned

## Comparing and Contrasting the Lives of Women at Fort Larned

Directions: Read pgs. 50-51 and fill in the blank with the letter representing the following women at Fort Larned under the statement which applies to that person. You may use one, two or all three choices for answers.

A. Officers' Wives

B. Laundresses

C. Servants

1. Women who probably found life at Fort Larned to be difficult and isolating.

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2. Women who often got married shortly after arriving at the fort.

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3. Women whose tasks included doing laundry.

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4. Women who were often called on to be creative and entertaining.

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5. Women who often lived in cramped quarters.

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6. Women who received transportation, a food ration and medical care.

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7. Women who possibly lived in adobe (mud-brick) quarters.

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8. Women who spent much time reading and writing letters.

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9. The two groups of women who would have been most likely to socially talk and spend time with one another.

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10. Women who were required to do much physical labor on a regular basis.

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11. Women who earned good monthly pay themselves.

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12. Women who were probably happy to leave Fort Larned.

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